

## Report on International Men's Day Celebration On 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020

The programme began with the welcome note extended by Smt Deepu.P . There were about 100 student participants and 100 participants from PURE and other institution.



In this occasion **Dr. B.G Ponnappa, Surgeon, Mysuru** spoke about significance of International Men's Day. He said that men have different role to play. They are son, husband, brother etc. many more men are perpetrators of crime and often subject to false allegations. They are also subject to various mental/psychological issues and many times fall prey to media hype which most of the time favour women. Further, he said that every day is Men's Day. It is great to get involved in masculine features who are notable like Swami Vivekananda, Sardar Vallabai Patel, Vishweshwaraiah etc. their contribution to society are notable. The whole world must be made safe for everyone and today's celebration educates us all. He concluded his speech by quoting 2020 International Men's Day theme-“ **Better health for men and boys**”, it aims to make practical improvements to the health and wellbeing of the male population.



**Sri Anil Kumar, Founder SIFF Orissa** spoke in this occasion and said that there is a need for middle path in laws related to marriages in India. Earlier laws were meant to protect women. Men are prey to many situations happening in court hall and are often subject to humiliation. It is common in family dispute where men lose case most of the time and are held liable to pay

alimony. Even the alternate dispute resolution fails. Focusing on balancing the laws in society he gave few examples to show how the things get extreme at policy level. In monthly alimony or child support alimony there is no clarity. SC in landmark judgments has given lot of clarity on this point too. Many a times there is no proper debate on the point and it is charged with emotions. Rational discussion on this point is very difficult. Spouse support and child support are different. Many times mixed approach is followed. Many factors like women working, education etc. follows.

The policies are one sided. Husband property would be divided and given to wife during divorce. On a long run these policies are not sustainable. On litigation side, it goes for four to six years. Very lesser number of cases is solved within two years. India is deeply traditional country. Divorce is not acceptable by our society. In spite of gender equality when it comes to marital laws, it is very conservative. If a woman is divorced her life is ruined. The policies are evolved in this direction favoring women. 60 to 70% of marriages are of short term. In western countries there is durational alimony which is for a certain period of time. This encourages women to procure a job. But in India, it is paid for a longer period. Matrimonial litigation can go to multiple courts. The causes for such litigations are different. Child support extended should be a continuous one comparatively to women. It supports for the complete wellbeing of child. When women are subject to counselling, it was found that many times they go to police and women cell. They may not be interested to file divorce but there is escalation on this aspect. Children development is hampered in such cases.



**Ms Deepika Narayan Bhardwaj** speaking on “**what I have learnt covering stories of men**” highlighted about s 498 A of CrPC. As said by SC there is misuse of this section. As a journalist she made a point on misuse of section 498A. There is no such film or documentary made on such issues. There is a saying that we believe what we see. What media show we believe that but what it doesn't we don't believe. Men are often victims of cases under S 498 A. even his family are prey to it. They try to save their family but in vain they fail. One of the main reason where media

doesn't cover these is they think it is anti-women and men doesn't feel free to express themselves. Men suffer abuses silently and their complaints are not lodged by the police. The repercussions of sharing their stories, abuse despite being victim are to be noted. Despite the case filed by women are false, men are forced to undergo punishments. The mind set up of men is that they don't come forward to express their suffering. She gave example of documentary India's son and explained how a man had to go through the traumatic incident of false allegations on him. It highlights the narrow minded empathy which is definitely not in favour of men. She highlighted about Men's day out website which constantly record crimes happening against men. She agreed that there are fewer resources available as to injustice happening to men.

**Sri T Prakash Advocate, Bangalore** speaking on Crimes against men: legal and constitutional remedies he said there is abuse of S 498A right from the beginning. It is non-bailable offence till 2014. Innocent family members suffered under this. SC said when once a case is registered under S 498A, inquiry has to be conducted. S 103 of evidence act drags court on s 307 in case of dowry death. There is misuse of even rape provision by women. False cases are charged under S 376. S 497 adultery law where only men are punished and not women. In 2018 SC felt that gross injustice caused to men community. Today adultery is no longer an offence.

In matrimonial cases, child custody is often given to mother but not to father up to the age of 5 years. Pain of children is not considered here. Children too want to feel the love of father.

Guidelines are given by SC on maintenance as to property and income of women claiming maintenance is concerned. This is one of the welcome provisions. Further speaking on sexual harassment women file false complaints. Common men often suffer under this. Under the guise of protecting women, men are neglected. There is no punishment for women filing false cases. No remedy is available to men. The programme concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Prof K.B Vasudeva.